Smith, Edgar

[Provost, University of Pennsylvania]

(88)

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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

November fourteenth
1 9 1 7

My dear Sir Robert:

For more than a hundred years the University of Pennsylvania has observed February twenty-second, Washington's Birthday, as University Day. On that occasion we have dropped our work, and given thought to Washington and the things he did. Some of the most eminent men of our country have appeared before the friends whom we have invited to the Academy of Music. Their subjects have always been chosen from some part or portion of the activities of Washington.

Now it seemed to some of us that at the present moment it would be very fitting to have an Englishman bring a message relating to the Father of our Country. Today, England and America are standing shoulder to shoulder in the greatest conflict in the world's history. We would be delighted if you would consent to address us on the occasion to which I have referred, February twenty-second, 1918, in the Academy of Music of Philadelphia.

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President.

Smith, Edgar

Provost, University of Pennsylvania

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

I hope that you have no conflicting engagements and that I may shortly receive your word of promise to make us very happy.

With every good wish, I am

Faithfully yours,

Edgar F. Smith

To
SIR ROBERT FALCONER,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

310

November 23rd., 1917

Provost Edgar Smith,
University of Pennsylvania,
Philadelphia, Pa.

My dear Provost:

Your very kind letter came to me as a great surprise and of course has given me much pleasure. The fact that at this time you should have thought me the one to speak on Washington's Birthday before the University of Pennsylvania in the line of the distinguished men who for over one hundred years have given the address on your University Day is a unique honour. I have taken several days to think of how I might speak and now I am glad to say that I accept your kind invitation, though it is with diffidence that I do so.

I assume that you will expect me to speak on some aspect of the life of Washington, but you will not regard it as out of place I suppose if I turn the point to what some of Washington's work has meant for the English-speaking world, particularly at this juncture.

I can hardly call myself an Englishman, as you mention in your letter, for my stock is altogether Canadian for several generations. This, however, may be no disadvantage, though a born Englishman could bring you a better message from across the seas than I could.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

304

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

November thirtieth
1 9 1 7

My dear Sir Robert:

Your acceptance of the invitation to address us on University Day, February twenty-second, 1918, has brought us great joy. Later arrangements for your entertainment will be placed before you. It is quite likely that a Trustee of the University--Mr. Louis C. Madeira--will bid you to his home. It is a delightful place and a most interesting family.

I'll ask the Secretary of the University to send you several University Day addresses. They may interest you.

Thanking you for consenting to honor us with your presence, I am

Faithfully yours,

Edgar F. Smith

To
SIR ROBERT FALCONER,
University of Toronto,
Toronto, Canada.

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December 6th, 1917

My dear Provost:

Your kind letter of November 30th should have been answered before this. I shall of course be delighted to abide by any arrangements that you may make for me as regards entertainment, and if Mr. Madeira decides to ask me to be his guest it will give me the greatest pleasure to accept.

Meantime, I am endeavouring to get some thoughts collected that may serve as a nucleus for my address. Just at present, however, we are in the throes of one of the most important general elections that the Dominion has ever held and the time at my disposal has been very much reduced.

I need not assure you again that I anticipate great pleasure in my visit. With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

Provost F. F. Smith,

University of Pennsylvania.

304

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PHILADELPHIA

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

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